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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE 2000

Afghanistan*, Bangladesh, Barbados*, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi*, Cape Verde, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Gabon, Guinea*, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan*, Madagascar*, Mali*, Malta*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Niger*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines*, Poland, Qatar*, Saint Lucia, Swaziland*, Turkmenistan*, Togo and Venezuela*: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly, in this year of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] which sustains the spirit, concept and practice of peace and non-violence, the adoption at its fifty-third session of the following resolution:

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (111).

"International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 proclaiming the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, as well as General Assembly resolution 52/13 of 20 November 1997 on a culture of peace,

"Recognizing that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of our societies throughout the world and that principles and practice of non-violence and peace can promote respect for life and dignity of each human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind, especially for the world's children,

"Recognizing also the role of education in constructing a culture of non-violence and peace, in particular by teaching the practice of non-violence to children, as it promotes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace that emanates from childhood will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation for socio-economic and cultural development, and will help children to be aware, not only of their rights but also of their responsibilities, by learning how to live together in harmony, within their families and among fellow human beings,

"Underlining that the proposed decade will contribute to advance the implementation of the other objectives, activities and programmes of the United Nations aimed at promoting human rights, education, non-discrimination, volunteers' commitments, protection of the environment and protection of children in especially difficult circumstances as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

"Convinced that an international decade for a culture of non-violence and peace for the children of the world, at the beginning of the new millennium, would give a strong encouragement to the efforts of the international community to foster harmony, peace and development throughout the world,

"1. Proclaims that the period 2001-2010 will constitute the International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, in consultation with all relevant

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[2] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, to finalize the draft programme of action of the Decade in connection with the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the agenda and mandate of the Decade;

"3. Invites each Member State to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of non-violence is taught at all levels in their society including in each educational institution, which will focus on the practical meaning and benefits of the practice of non-violence in daily life;

"4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, spiritual leaders throughout the world, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the media, the performing arts and civil societies to actively support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled 'International Decade for a Culture of Non-violence and Peace for the Children of the World (2001-2010)'."